

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10, 11, 13-15, 53, 54, 56, 86-90 and 92-95 remain pending in the instant application. All claims presently stand rejected. Applicants amend claims 10, 53, 86 and 87. Applicants assert that no new matter is added herein as amendments to claims 10, 53 and 86 are supported at least at page 13, lines 11-21; page 24, line 8 through page 25 line 5; and Fig. 5C of the application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of at least the following remarks.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Patent Office rejects claims 87 and 94 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph because the specification fails to state that content is ranked by clients at a different rate than other clients.

Applicants respectfully disagree and assert that a practitioner in the art would find the language of claims 87 and 94 (e.g., that content is ranked by clients at a different rate than other clients) is enabled by the application and drawings as filed upon reading the descriptions: (1) at page 15, line 21 through page 16, line 6 of the application, which states that after reviewing descriptive content, a user can provide explicit feedback; (2) at page 25, lines 6-12, which states that clients are assumed to consume content at different rates; and (3) at page 24, lines 8-14 which states that clients are assumed to generate demand data feedback at different rates, consequently, clients provide the feedback based on the amount of content that has been ranked or rated.

The Patent Office rejects claim 87 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph because "wherein the user and ranks" is unclear. Applicants amend claim 87 to cure the typographical error and submit that as amended claim 87 is clear.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10, 12-15, 53, 55-56 and 86-93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,177,931 to Alexander et al. (Herz) in view of Aras et al. (US Patent 5,872,588) in further view of Herz et al. (US Patent 5,758,257). Claims 11 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,177,931 to Alexander et al. (Herz) in view of Aras et al. (US Patent 5,872,588) in further

view of Herz et al. (US Patent 5,758,257) in further view of Proehl et al. (US Patent 6,990,676).

“To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

Independent Claim 10

Amended independent claim 10 now recites, in pertinent part

 sending demand data feedback from the client to the server after a predetermined amount of pieces of content has been utilized since the last time demand data feedback was sent to the server and the demand data related to the utilized pieces of content has been generated for a predetermined threshold count of a plurality of pieces of content rated,

 wherein the generation of demand data related to the pieces of content described by the content descriptors comprises receiving explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content, the explicit user input comprising one of ranking a relative order of some of the pieces of content available amongst the pieces of content, and generating a list of absolute rating numbers of some of the pieces of content for some of the pieces of content available.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the prior art cited by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest wherein the generation of demand data related to the pieces of content described by the content descriptors comprises receiving explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content, the explicit user input comprising one of ranking a relative order of some of the pieces of content available amongst the pieces of content, and generating a list of absolute rating numbers of some of the pieces of content for some of the pieces of content available.

Alexander teaches that the EPG records the viewer's actions and the circumstances surrounding those actions, such as when the viewer changes channels; provides instruction to record or watch a program; or changes volume (Col. 28 lines 30-52). Consequently, the Patent Office has not identified and Applicants are unable to find any teaching or suggestion of the above noted limitation of claim 10 in Alexander.

Aras teaches detecting changes in channels, such as from a remote or a controller or a channel changer (Col. 15 lines 34-57). Consequently, the Patent Office has not identified and Applicants are unable to find any teaching or suggestion of the above noted limitation of claim 10 in Aras.

Herz teaches that a customer may be asked to state his/her most preferred level for a characteristic for a viewed section of a video just viewed, such a level of action of a movie segment (Col. 14 lines 10-35). Herz describes generating initial customer profiles by having customers either giving acceptable ranges for characteristics which identify a video program (see col. 12, lines 11-32), where such characteristics include film genre, directors, actors, degree of sex, degree of violence, degree of profanity, MPAA rating, etc. (see col. 11, lines 45-57). Alternatively, the user can develop an initial customer profile by giving a specific rating for each category (see col. 12, lines 11-22). However, neither of these situations describe ranking a relative order of pieces of content or an absolute rating number for pieces of content as required by the claim.

Herz also describes content profiles generated by questionnaires completed by a panel of experts or customers to determine the objective characteristic scores for the media to compare to the user profiles (see col. 13, lines 12-28). Thus, this also does not describe a user generating demand data indicating a relative desirability of pieces of content by ranking a relative order or listing absolute ratings of pieces of content, prior to sending the demand feedback data to a server after a predetermined amount of pieces have been utilized, as required by claim 10. Instead, it is simply questionnaires filled out by groups of people to determine, for example, that the movie "Lots of Blood" is a more violent movie than the movie "Beautiful Day," so that when a user's profile indicates that the user prefers non-violent movies, the server knows to send "Beautiful Day" to the user rather than "Lots of Blood."

Herz also teaches that a user may provide active feedback referred, to as a "rave review," by reviewing short sections of different video programs, each characterized by a few characteristics and the objective characteristic levels of those characteristics, and then based on that experience, identifying his or her most preferred level for the characteristic (see col. 14, lines 11-28). For example, a user may review "Lots of Blood," which is assigned an action value of 8, and then based on that experience, the user may know that the user prefers a rating of between 4 and 6 as an acceptable range for the characteristic "action" (see col. 14, lines 11-28). Thus, this also does not describe ranking

a relative order of pieces of content or generating a list of absolute rating numbers for the pieces of content, but instead describe selecting a preferred acceptance range for a characteristic that may be associated with various different content.

Consequently, the Patent Office has not identified and Applicants are unable to find any teaching or suggestion of the above noted limitation of claim 10 in Herz.

Also, Proehl et al. (US Patent 6,990,676) (cited against claims other than claim 10) fails to cure the deficiencies of the references noted above. The Patent Office asserts that Proehl teaches that previews of future television programs can be locally stored at the client (see col. 14, line 67 – col. 15 line 17; and col. 17 lines 15-25). However, the Patent Office has not identified and Applicants are unable to find any teaching in Proehl of the above-noted limitations of amended claim 10.

In addition, by receiving explicit user input comprising ranking or rating numbers as claimed, embodiments described in the specification of the present application, for example, without limitation thereto, provide the benefits of: (a) providing demand data generated by considering explicit user feedback at the client or based on previous user behavior or content consumption (specification page 13 lines 19-21; claim 94); (b) so that demand data feedback can be sent from the client to the server after the demand data related to the utilized pieces of content has been generated for a predetermined threshold count of a plurality of pieces of content rated (claim 10) where the demand data comprises explicit user input comprising ranking or rating numbers for users who generate the explicit input at different rates (specification page 24 line 10 through page 25 line 5; claim 87); (c) such as to customize the amount of data sent in the feedback for different bandwidth connections between the client and the server (specification page 8 lines 1-19; line 21 through page 25 line 3; and claim 95). However, none of the cited references provide any of these benefits.

Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above for independent claim 10.

Next, Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection above for claim 53 for at least the reason that the cited references do not teach or suggest to send demand data feedback to the server after a predetermined amount of the pieces of content has been utilized since the last time demand data feedback was sent to the server and the demand data related to the utilized pieces of content has been generated for a count of the number of pieces of content ranked or rated that exceeds a predetermined threshold

number, wherein the generation of demand data related to the pieces of content described by the content descriptors comprises receiving explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content, the explicit user input comprising one of ranking a relative order of some of the pieces of content available, and generating a list of absolute rating numbers for some of the pieces of content available, as required by amended claim 53. An argument analogous to the one above for claim 10 applies here as well. Hence, for at least the reasons above for claim 10, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above for claim 53.

Next, Applicants disagree with the rejection of claim 86 for at least the reason that the cited references do not teach or suggest sending demand data feedback from the client to the server after the demand data related to a predetermined amount of pieces of content is generated for a predetermined threshold count of a plurality of pieces of content rated after the predetermined amount of pieces of content have been utilized, the demand data feedback to indicate the relative desirability of the pieces of content available for future broadcasts, wherein the generation of demand data related to the pieces of content described by the content descriptors comprises receiving explicit user input regarding specific pieces of content, the explicit user input comprising one of ranking a relative order of some of the pieces of content available, and generating a list of absolute rating numbers for some of the pieces of content available, as required by amended claim 86. An argument analogous to the one above for claim 10 applies here as well. Hence, for at least the reasons above for claim 10, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above for claim 86.

In addition, Applicant also disagrees with the rejection of dependent claim 95 and traverses the Official Notice that bandwidth capacity is considered when transmitting data between a client and a server. First of all, this Notice does not address the limitations of the claim, which require "sending demand feedback data from the client to the server after the demand data related to a predetermined amount of pieces of content is generated for a predetermined threshold count of a plurality of pieces of content rated after the predetermined amount of pieces of content have been utilized . . . wherein the threshold is selected considering a bandwidth capacity of a connection between the client and the server," as required by claim 95. These limitations require selecting a threshold count for sending demand feedback data, where the count is pieces of content rated and is selected considering the bandwidth capacity between the

client and the server. Thus, selecting the predetermined threshold count requires considering two factors. Specifically, selecting considers how many pieces of content rated are required to generate an amount of demand data feedback data that will have an impact on a low or high bandwidth capacity connection, such as so that the connection is not overloaded with data (e.g., see page 8 lines 1-19; and page 24 line 15 to page 25 line 5 of the application). However, none of the references teach or enable such a consideration.

Moreover, Applicant traverses the Official Notice and requests the Patent Office provide a reference in support of the claimed limitation, as noted above, in accordance with MPEP § 2144.03.

III. Dependent Claims

The dependent claims not mentioned above are non-obvious over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that all of the rejections above of the claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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Robert Fiore

6/9/06
Date